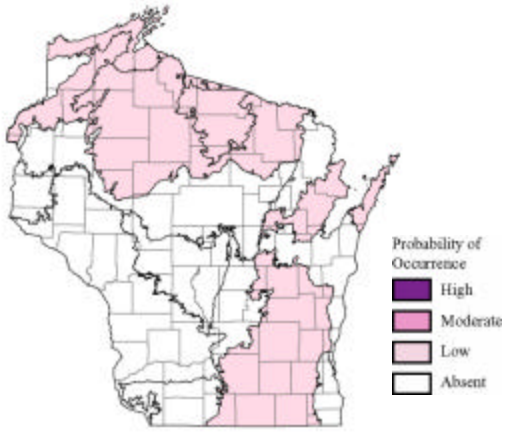
American Black Duck (*Anas rubripes*)

Species Assessment Scores*

State rarity:	3
State threats:	4
State population trend:	5
Global abundance:	4
Global distribution:	4
Global threats:	4
Global population trend:	5
Mean Risk Score:	4.1
Area of importance:	3

* Please see the Description of Vertebrate Species Summaries (Section 3.1.1) for definitions of criteria and scores.



Ecological Landscape Associations
Please note that this is not a range map. Shading does not imply that the species is present throughout the Landscape, but represents the probability that the species occurs somewhere in the Landscape.

Landscape -community Combinations of Highest Ecological Priority

Ecological Landscape	Community
North Central Forest	Emergent marsh
North Central Forest	Northern sedge meadow
North Central Forest	Open bog
North Central Forest	Submergent marsh
Northern Highland	Emergent marsh
Northern Highland	Emergent marsh - wild rice
Northern Highland	Northern sedge meadow
Northern Highland	Open bog
Northern Highland	Submergent marsh
Northern Lake Michigan Coastal	Emergent marsh
Northern Lake Michigan Coastal	Northern sedge meadow
Northwest Sands	Emergent marsh
Northwest Sands	Emergent marsh - wild rice
Northwest Sands	Northern sedge meadow
Northwest Sands	Open bog
Northwest Sands	Submergent marsh
Southeast Glacial Plains	Emergent marsh
Superior Coastal Plain	Emergent marsh
Superior Coastal Plain	Emergent marsh - wild rice
Superior Coastal Plain	Open bog
Superior Coastal Plain	Submergent marsh

Threats and Issues

- Competition with Mallards, resulting from habitat alteration.
- Genetic swamping from interbreeding with Mallards.
- American Black Ducks are extremely sensitive to human disturbances; urbanization and human encroachment into wintering and breeding areas keep birds from occupying suitable habitats (Longcore *et al.* 2000, Jahn and Hunt 1964).

- Agricultural pesticides may be a concern.
- Botulism may be a concern.

Priority Conservation Actions

- Localized efforts can be made to protect wintering areas of American Black Ducks from further degradation. Fencing lands with predator-proof fences can be done where practical and drawdowns can be scheduled to encourage growth of mudflat annuals, regenerate stands of emergent vegetation, stimulate primary productivity, and in turn improve the detrital base (Kenow and Rusch 1996).
- Improve methods to monitor future regional changes in populations.
- Obtain more accurate annual survival rates by increasing the size of the banded sample (Longcore *et al.* 2000).
- Construct impoundments of sufficient size and isolation in appropriate forested landscapes to ensure recruitment (Longcore *et al.* 2000) (e.g., restoration of wild rice areas in northen Wisconsin).
- Improve methods to monitor hybrid numbers (Longcore *et al.* 2000).
- Research the effects of human-caused disturbances relative to population changes. Determine how disturbances during the fall hunting season affects body condition and subsequent survival in winter (Longcore *et al.* 2000).